UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CONF.91/L.52
3 December 1997

ENGLISH ONLY

SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 13-22 January 1998
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

Report of Slovenia

Paper submitted by Slovenia**

---

* E/CONF.91/1.

** Prepared by Ema Pogorelčnik, Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, and Milan Orožen Adamič, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts, Anton Melik Institute of Geography, Ljubljana.

97-38081 (E) 050198 060198

Agenda item 5: National standardization (field collection and office treatment of names, institutions, multilingual areas)

5 ((a,b)): Field collection and office treatment of names

The main source for standardization of geographical names in Slovenia is a digital Register of Geographical names. Names are collecting from basic topographic maps in scale 1:5 000, 1:10 000 and topographic maps in scale 1:25 000.

5 (c): Treatment of names in multilingual areas

For border regions in Italy, Austria, and Hungary we used national 1:25 000 scale maps and carefully adopted the names on them in cooperation with local experts. In brackets we added the second Slovene name if there was one. In cases where the map covers officially bilingual territory as in Slovene Istria, Prekmurje, and partly Carinthia in Austria, the Slovene and foreign variations of the name is divided by a slash (/), for example, Koper/Capodistria (SLO), Lendava/Lendva (SLO), and Ferlach/Borovlje (A). A large part of these territories is autochthonously inhabited by Slovene populations. Overall this was an extremely difficult task, and our work, of course, drew on the most diverse sources in addition to maps. We believe it would be ideal in future for individual countries to exchange information on nomenclature in border regions. We are sure that this would be to the benefit of both sides.

5 ((d)): Administrative structure of national names authorities: The Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names

In 1986, on the initiative of Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia and the Geographical Society, the Executive Council of Slovenia appointed a Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia reappointed in 1995 the Commission for Standardization of Geographical Names.

5 ((e)): Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors:

Toponymic Guide for Slovenia

At the initiative of the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia, the Toponymic Guide for Slovenia was elaborated in 1995 and published it in Slovene and English language.

The content is arranged under the following main headings: population, official languages, the Slovene alphabet, Slovene dialects, rules of writing geographical names, nomenclature bodies and the standardization of geographical names, toponymic sources, dictionary of general names, adjectives, and descriptive marks on maps, abbreviations on maps, and the administrative division of Slovenia.

Gazetteer

In 1997 the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names has in its program the partial publication of the Gazetteer which will contain undisputed names of settlements.

Agenda item 6: Toponymic Data Files: Register of Geographical Names (RGN)

Slovenia has around 200,000 geographical names which appear in various sources. The current situation (unstandardized geographical names scattered throughout different sources) causes considerable confusion, errors in various maps and data bases, and communication problems. The intention of establishing the RGN is to overcome these problems and ensure uniform information in the field of geographical names.

At the end of 1992, the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia began the project of preparing technological bases for the establishment of the RGN. The project was concluded at the end of 1993 and later supplemented with elaboration of suitable fonts. The basic concept of the register is represent by two data bases: the first is a descriptive or relation base elaborated using Oracle containing individual geographical names in their official form; the second is a graphical-descriptive data base elaborated using Arc/Info that contains individual geographical names in exactly the form they appear in the source. Both data bases are compatible and connectable through identifiers for the geographical names.

Establishing the register of geographical names runs in parallel with the upgrading of the basic 1:5 000 and 1:10 000 scale topographic maps and 1:25 000 scale national topographic maps. Between 1993 and 1997, 30% sheets of the basic 1:5 000 and 1:10 000 scale topographic maps were processed and also all sheets of 1:25 000 scale national topographic maps. In the 1997 and 1998 we intend to modernize the concept of RGN.

Geographical names appearing in the source material are not standardized. The names taken from 1:25 000 scale national topographic maps are inspected and checked by a work group of the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names with the goal of preparing professional data bases for the process of standardization of these names. The inspected names represent the source for the upgrading of the 1:25 000 scale national topographic maps.

Agenda item 7: Terminology in the standardization of geographical names: Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology

Along with the Toponymic Guide for Slovenia, the Dictionary of Toponymic Terminology was also prepared and published.

The Dictionary includes Slovene translations of English terms, Slovene synonyms, the original English terms with synonyms, and the translated definition of the terms with additional practical examples. The Dictionary is also intended for cartographers, geodesists, and geographers.

Agenda item 10: Exonyms: The Use of Foreign Geographical Names in Slovenia

In Slovenia we use about 1400 foreing geographical names. Among the Slovene public a relatively lively discussion was developed on this topic. On the one side is the group which believes that the number of translated names should be higher. On the other side was the conception of a relatively small but ever-increasing group, mostly of experts (geographers, geodesists) who are persistently striving for the reverse principle of only a modest amount of translations or Slovenization of geographical names. The Slovene version must be written in a way that is clearly understandable. The Slovene form of the name must be in brackets or written in smaller, different typography. Because that we decided that one of our first tasks would be to make a Slovene gazetteer of foreign names.

Agenda item 12: Writing systems and guides to pronunciation

12 (a) Romanization Systems

In Slovenia there is no serious problems with romanization, because only three special characters are used (Č, Š, Ž). Cyrilic or other non roman system are not in use.

Agenda item 13: Toponymic websites

In 1997 we made website about the Commission for the standardization of geographical names.

Home page address: http://www.sigov.si/kszi/

Agenda item 16: Country Names: A Slovene Standard for Names of Countries

In Slovenia discussion has dragged on for about ten years on how to write the names of certain countries. Therefore, the Commission for the Standardization of Geographical Names prepared a document on 195 names of countries. The basis for the preparation of this document was the ISO-3166 standard.

Prepared by:

Ema Pogorelčnik
Surveying and Mapping Authority
of the Republic of Slovenia
Šaranovičeva 12
SI-1000 Ljubljana

Tel.: +386 61 178 48 11
Fax: +386 61 178 48 34
E-mail: ema.pogorelcnik@gu.sigov.mail.si

dr. Milan Orožen Adamič
Scientific Research Centre of the
Slovene Academy of Sciences and Arts
Anton Melik Institute of Geography
Gosposka 13
SI-1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: +386 61 12 56 068
Fax: +386 61 12 55 253
E-mail: milan@zrc-sazu.si